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Economic and Social Council

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Substantive session of 2006
Geneva, 3-28 July
Agenda item 7 (g)
Coordination, programme and other questions: ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, 2003/16 of 21 July 2003, 2003/50 of 24 July 2003, 2004/2 of 3 May 2004, 2004/59 and 2004/60 of 23 July 2004, 2005/1 of 1 March 2005 and 2005/33 of 26 July 2005 and its decision 2003/311 of 22 August 2003,

1. *Takes note* with appreciation of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi;[1]

2. *Expresses appreciation* to the Government and people of Burundi for the successful conclusion of the political transition;

3. *Commends* the Government of Burundi for its efforts to consolidate the authority of the institutions concerned and to engage in economic and social recovery;

4. *Expresses concern* as to the high level of vulnerability of the population in Burundi, including refugees returning to Burundi, commends donors for their continued humanitarian assistance and encourages them to provide funds for the United Nations consolidated appeals for 2006, including the contingency plan elaborated by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees for refugee return;

5. *Commends* the authorities of Burundi for preparing an emergency programme and finalizing the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper and its three-year implementation plan;

[1] E/2006/53.

06-43851 (E) 240706

6. *Encourages* the Government of Burundi to continue to pursue peace talks to achieve permanent peace and stability in Burundi;

7. *Commends* the Government of Burundi on its efforts to improve governance and in this regard encourages it to continue its fight against corruption;

8. *Commends* those donors that have increased their support to Burundi and calls for rapid disbursement of funds committed at the conference of development partners, held on 28 February 2006 in Bujumbura;

9. *Invites* donor countries and the institutions concerned to take part in the donor conference organized by the Government of Burundi to be held in Bujumbura in the third quarter of 2006, to work with the National Committee for Aid Coordination established by the Government to increase dialogue with donors, and to support the Government with commensurate means and resources, including where appropriate to consider providing direct budgetary support;

10. *Commends* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group for its innovative and constructive work in support of Burundi and welcomes the decision of the Peacebuilding Commission to address the needs of Burundi;

11. *Decides* to terminate the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Burundi.

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Agenda item 7 (g)
Coordination, programme and other questions: ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations

Assessment of the ad hoc advisory groups of the Economic and Social Council on African countries emerging from conflict

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2003/50 of 24 July 2003 and 2004/59 of 23 July 2004,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the assessment of the ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict;[1]

2. *Commends* the ad hoc advisory groups for their innovative and constructive work in promoting international provision of support to Guinea-Bissau and Burundi and sensitizing a wide range of development partners to their specific needs through the partnership approach that has been adopted by the ad hoc advisory groups;

3. *Also commends* the ad hoc advisory groups for promoting a comprehensive approach to political stability and economic and social development, based on an integrated approach to relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction and development, and for fostering interaction and coordination among United Nations system and other actors working in the countries concerned;

4. *Welcomes* the increased collaboration fostered by the ad hoc advisory groups with the United Nations system organizations and the Bretton Woods institutions and encourages further coordination with those bodies;

5. *Calls upon* the national authorities of Guinea-Bissau and Burundi and their development partners to give due consideration to the recommendations

[1] E/2006/64.

06-43845 (E) 240706

formulated by the ad hoc advisory groups on the elaboration of a long-term vision for the development of those countries;

6. *Invites* the donor community to translate pledges made for support to the countries concerned, inter alia, through the United Nations consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance, into disbursements, including, where appropriate, its consideration of providing direct budgetary support in order to ensure the delivery of concrete benefits to the populations concerned and to sustain peacebuilding efforts;

7. *Acknowledges* the value of the lessons learned from the ad hoc advisory groups and decides to bring this experience to the attention of relevant United Nations bodies.

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Coordination, programme and other questions: ad hoc advisory groups on African countries emerging from conflict

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations

Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/1 of 15 July 2002, 2003/1 of 31 January 2003, 2003/53 of 24 July 2003, 2004/1 of 3 May 2004, 2004/59 and 2004/61 of 23 July 2004, 2005/2 of 1 March 2005 and 2005/32 of 26 July 2005 and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002,

Welcoming the successful conclusion of the second round of Presidential elections on 24 July 2005 and the formal completion of the transitional period and encouraging the Government of Guinea-Bissau to continue its efforts to further deepen transparency and good governance,

Recognizing the continuing efforts of the Government of Guinea-Bissau to improve its management of public administration and to strengthen economic reforms,

Expressing concern at the emerging food crisis in the southern part of the country and in this regard expressing appreciation for the continuing efforts of the World Food Programme to assist vulnerable populations in Guinea-Bissau,

Welcoming the positive and constructive role of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau in supporting the country in its pursuit of its pressing short- and long-term development objectives,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;[1]

[1] E/2006/8.

06-43839 (E) 240706

2. *Invites* the donor community to provide support, including its consideration of providing, where appropriate, the budgetary support needed to enable the minimum functioning of the State, in particular by providing additional contributions through the Emergency Economic Management Fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme;

3. *Notes* the importance of funding the country's poverty reduction strategy plan and expresses concern that the two previous donor round-table conferences did not take place as scheduled and, in this regard, encourages all partners of Guinea-Bissau to participate in the donor round-table conference scheduled to be held in the last quarter of 2006;

4. *Reaffirms* the need to create an enabling environment in Guinea-Bissau for the promotion of sustainable development in the country, expresses support for the efforts of Guinea-Bissau to carry out economic reforms and, in that regard, renews its invitation to the authorities and all relevant actors of Guinea-Bissau to consolidate political and institutional stability;

5. *Urges* the international community to remain engaged with Guinea-Bissau and, in that regard, decides to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau until the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council.

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Geneva, 3-28 July 2006
Agenda item 7 (c)
Coordination, programme and other questions: international cooperation in the field of informatics

Draft resolution submitted by the Vice-President of the Council, Dalius Čekuolis (Lithuania), on the basis of informal consultations

The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[1] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communication technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all official languages,[2]

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members and Observers of the United Nations, as well as non-governmental organizations

[1] E/2006/79.

[2] Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004 and 2005/12 of 22 July 2005.

06-43833 (E) 210706

accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives and, in this regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Information Technology Services Division for the continuing cooperation it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for its continuing work in the implementation of wireless Internet (WiFi) in United Nations Headquarters conference rooms and public areas;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2007 on action taken to follow up the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.